## NAVAL BASE CORONADO





October 2004

# HALLOWEINSAFETY



Robert L. Chatman NBC Safety Manager

### **HALLOWEEN**

As Christianity took hold of the Celtic world, the church took many of the existing pagan festivals and re-invented them as Christian holidays and celebrations.

In the 7th Century, Pope Boniface IV dedicated the Pantheon in Rome to the Virgin Mary on 13 May. Pope Gregory III and the Pantheon rededicated to the honor of 'All Saints in the Vatican Basilica', as an attempt to remove the Samhain festivals from the Celtic calendar then changed this holiday to 1 November.

Later, in the 11th Century, 2 November was made 'All Souls' Day' a day of honoring the dead. Celebrated in the same manner as Samhain, with bonfires, parades, costumes and feasts.

The whole celebration now lasted three days, from 31 October to 2 November and was known as **Hallowmas**.

Ghosts and ghouls and things that go 'bump' in the night.

Halloween's coming so get prepared to have the fright of your life.



Everyone wants to have a safe and happy Halloween for themselves, their guests and their children. Using safety tips and common sense can help you make the most of your Halloween season and make it as enjoyable for your kids as it is for you!

Below, you'll find helpful tips and ideas to make the most of everyone's favorite holiday of the year ... HALLOWEEN!

Make Halloween a fun, safe and happy time for your kids and they'll carry on the tradition that you taught them to their own families some day!

#### HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS FOR KIDS

Anytime a child has an accident, it's tragic. The last thing that you want to happen is for your child to be hurt on a holiday, it would forever live in the minds of the child and the family.

There are many ways to keep your child safe at Halloween, when they are more prone to accidents and injuries. The excitement of children and adults at this time of year sometimes makes them forget to be careful. Simple common sense can do a lot to stop any tragedies from happening.



- Help your child pick out or make a costume that will be safe. Make it fire proof; the eyeholes should be large enough for good peripheral vision.
- If you set jack-o-lanterns on your porch with candles in them, make sure that they are far enough out of the way so that kids costumes won't accidentally be set on fire.
- Make sure that if your child is carrying a prop, such as a scythe, butcher knife or a pitchfork, that the tips are smooth and flexible enough to not cause injury if fallen on.
- Kids always want to help with the pumpkin carving. Small children shouldn't be allowed to use a sharp knife to cut the top or the face. There are many kits available that come with tiny saws that work better then knives and are safer, although they can cut you as well. It's best to let the kids clean out the pumpkin and draw a face on it, which you can carve for them.
- Treating your kids to a spooky Halloween dinner will make them less likely to eat the candy they collect before you have a chance to check it for them.
- Teaching your kids basic everyday safety such as not getting into cars or talking to strangers, watching both ways before crossing streets and crossing when the lights tell you to, will help make them safer when they are out Trick or Treating.

Make Halloween a fun, safe and happy time for your kids and they'll carry on the tradition that you taught them to their own families some day!

#### HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS FOR ADULTS

Parents of trick-or-treating kids can get so caught up in the fun that they might forget some simple safety ideas that could save everyone some trouble.



#### Below are just a few common sense tips that can help.

- Know the route your kids will be taking if you aren't going with them.
- The best bet is to make sure that an adult is going with them. If you can't take them, see if another parent or a teen-aged sibling can go along.
- Know what other activities a child may be attending, such as parties, school or mall functions.
- Make sure you set a time that they should be home by. Make sure they know how important it is for them to be home on time.
- Explain to children the difference between tricks and vandalism.
   Throwing eggs at a house may seem like fun but they need to know the other side of the coin as well, clean up and damages can ruin Halloween. If they are caught vandalizing, make them clean up the mess they've made.
- Explain to your kids that animal cruelty is not acceptable. Kids may know
  this on their own but peer pressure can be a bad thing. Make sure that
  they know that harming animals is not only morally wrong but also
  punishable by law and will not be tolerated.

#### HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS FOR PARTIES



Having a Halloween party, either adult or for kids, is definitely great fun! In order to have things run smoothly and with no accidents, here are some tips that can be used to make your party more enjoyable.



- If using dry ice in a punch bowl, make sure that the person serving keeps any dry ice chips out of drinks! It can cause severe injury if ingested.
- If you are holding your party in your house, make sure that you move any breakable pieces of furniture or knick-knacks to another room where they can't get broken. A forgotten heirloom vase that hits the floor could ruin the night for you.
- To keep things moving for either an adult party or child's party, make sure that you have some games, like a scavenger hunt or a murder mystery planned in advance.
- If you are planning a party for your kids and their friends, see if you can get some of the other mothers to help out with the planning, baking and what ever else needs to be done. Make a block party out of it!
- Whip up a batch of Halloween cupcakes the day before, have the kids help you out. Any treats or party food that can be made in advance is always a big help!
- Having a pumpkin carving party on the night before Halloween can be a great way to start off the festivities. Either adults, kids or both, you can have a wonderful time and get all your pumpkins carved at the same time!
- Set up a table with treats, punch and goodies in your front yard if you live in a small neighborhood. Invite the children and their parents to stop by for refreshments; you'll start a small party right in your front yard! Just make sure you set up a nice yard haunt, too!

#### HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS FOR TRICK OR TREATING

Trick or Treating should be one of the great adventures of Halloween for kids! They can get dressed in scary costumes and go door-to-door, begging "Tricks or Treats!" from neighbors or at the local mall. It should be a fun time, without trouble and pain, so following some easy tips can keep your child safe every Halloween.



- Children should go out during daylight hours only unless accompanied by a responsible adult.
- Plan a safe route so parents know where their older kids will be at all times. Set a time for their return home. Make sure that children are old enough and responsible enough to go out by themselves.
- Let your children know not to cut through back alleys and fields. Make sure they know to stay in populated places and don't go off the beaten track. Stay in well-lighted areas.
- Stop only at familiar houses in your own neighborhood unless an adult accompanies them.
- Small children should never be allowed to go out alone on Halloween. Make sure an older sibling or adult is with them.
- Instruct your children not to eat any treats until they bring them home to be examined by you.
- Instruct your child to never go into the home of a stranger or get into their car.
- Make sure your child carries a flashlight, glow stick or has reflective tape on their costume to make them more visible to cars.
- Let them know that they should stay together as a group if going out to Trick or Treat without an adult.

#### HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS FOR YARD HAUNTS

When planning a yard haunt there are some things that you want to keep in mind for safety reasons. You want to make your haunt scary, possibly bloody and gory but when it comes to your visitors, you don't want the blood to end up being real. Here are some ideas that might help you make it safer.



- The number one item is to get extra homeowners insurance for the nights that you will be allowing people to view your haunt. Nothing can spoil the fun more than a law suits because someone tripped and fell down. Most insurance companies can help you with the problem of extra insurance for the time needed, even if it's for a night. The expense of a night's insurance will far outweigh what it could end up costing you with out it!
- When building your haunt, make sure that the walkways are far enough away
  from things so that people can't trip over them or hurt themselves. This also is
  good for you; this means that your visitors won't be able to ruin your props
  and sets. Some people just have to vandalize at this time of year and ruin it
  for others.
- If you have a lot of Jack-O-Lanterns, you might want to try a battery powered light source or light sticks to light them instead of candles. This cuts down on the fire hazards, such as catching costumes or props on fire.
- If you do use real candles, make sure there is no chance of anything blowing into the flames, no cloth, crepe paper streamers or anything that could start a fire.
- If you are using fake blood, make sure that it won't be coming in contact with anything stainable like visitors, pets and children. Not only is fake blood sticky but also it can stain like crazy!
- If you have a particularly gruesome haunt set up, make sure you have warning signs up so that those with a weak stomach can be forewarned.
- If your haunt is going to be publicized, make sure that you get some volunteers to help with crowd control and public safety. Off duty police and fireman are often willing to help out.

# NAVOSH INSPECTION SCHEDULE

COMMAND DATE

**OCTOBER** 

AIMD 10/18/04 CNAP 10/28/04

**NOVEMBER** 

WEAPONS 11/18/04 NCWG 1 11/30/04

#### **NBC SAFETY OFFICE STAFF**

Robert L. Chatman	545-1049	Rick Lewis	545-1048
Ron Cablay	545-1052	Chuck Ritchie	545-1055
Dale Crosbie	545-2492	Delano Rivera	545-4198
Thomas Hirzel	767-7546		

FOR ASSISTANCE, COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT OUR SAFETY OFFICE LOCATED AT BLDG 678 RM 227

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